



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

May 11, 2001



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Vic Owens

## Another day at the office

Tech. Sgt. John Stricklin, 20th Special Operations Squadron gunner, surveys the scene during a water operation. For more on gunners, see Page 10.

## Medal of Honor recipient speaks at USAFSOS

by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberts  
AFSOC Public Affairs

The Air Force Special Operations School uses many tools to provide joint special operations education to American and ally militaries.

One of those tools is the speakers who bring their experience and knowledge to the schoolhouse and provide students a chance to meet and interact with individuals referred to by many as patriots and heroes.

Last week's speaker, retired Army Sgt. Maj. Jon Cavaiani, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, fits this description.

When asked about his heroic deeds, the sergeant major shied off the discussion.

"I don't like to talk about it much," he said. "When people ask me how I (received) the

Medal of Honor, I say 'I couldn't outrun them, so I had to fight them.'"

Sergeant Major Cavaiani joined the Army in 1969, just two years after becoming an American citizen, and volunteered for special operations duty. Shortly thereafter, he was sent to Vietnam as a platoon leader.

It was at an isolated radio relay site called Outpost Hickory, deep in an enemy territory near Khe Sanh, Vietnam, that Sergeant Major Cavaiani – though heavily outnumbered and with complete disregard for his own personal safety – evacuated his platoon.

"Most things about that day at Old Hickory didn't bother me until after I got out because I had that communication with my peers and other soldiers who had

See **CAVAIANI**, Page 3

## Air Force Special Operations Command commander returns to skies

by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberts  
AFSOC Public Affairs

The Air Force is committed to keeping pilots in the air – just ask Lt. Gen. Maxwell Bailey. After more than 15 months off of flight status, the Air Force Special Operations Command commander resumed his flying career of more than 32 years and 5,900 flight hours.

Last year, after an irregular electrocardiogram grounded the general, doctors began a series of tests and treatments to correct some blockage.

At first the blockage was treated with medication, but in July the doctors decided to admit General Bailey to Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where he underwent triple bypass surgery.

"The Air Force has been great

in allowing me to stay in command while not being able to fly," said the general. "(Air Force Chief of Staff) General (Michael) Ryan's support for my continuing command and ultimately his decision on returning me to flight status shows the measure of support I've received."

Even though General Ryan, assured General Bailey that people don't need to fly to lead, General Bailey was intent on returning to

flight status if at all possible.

"There are things as a commander in the flying world that are still very important for me to go through even though I don't go out on operational missions. I want to remain sensitive to what it's really like for those who do go out on those missions," said General Bailey.

As anyone who has had a medical problem can understand, getting back into shape can be

very difficult both mentally and physically. The general credits his quick recovery to a lifetime commitment of exercise and good nutrition.

Additionally he's grateful for the care and support of Lt. Gen. P.K. Carlton, the Air Force surgeon general; Col. Mark Ediger, 16th Medical Group commander, who has acted as his personal

See **BAILEY**, Page 4

### News



#### HAZMAT exercise

Wing undergoes last disaster response exercise before Operational Readiness Inspection  
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### Feature



#### Hurricane season

Learn how to prepare, plan for hurricane season to protect family, property  
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### Sports



#### Tae Kwon Do tournament

Base youth compete in Tae Kwon Do tournament at youth center  
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# VIEWPOINTS

## Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number.

Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

Others will be answered by letter or phone call.

Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible.

This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).



**Col. David Scott**  
Commander, 16th SOW

## Serving in world's best Air Force instills pride

by **Senior Airman Dean Witt**  
368th Recruiting Squadron  
Public Affairs

**HILLAIR FORCE BASE, Utah -** The other day I walked into a restaurant on my way back from a school visit. There I met a man who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

He told me stories about his time in the war and in the service.

He was proud of what he had done. And then he thanked me for what I do. He thanked me for serving my country.

After I left the restaurant it dawned on me. Serving my country through the Air Force is a great honor for me.

I realized it's a privilege, too. I think many Americans have forgotten what patriotism is. It's not their fault. There have been no major wars since Vietnam.

The economy has been booming for a decade, and people have forgotten about how the price of prosperity was paid. It's important for everyone in the Air Force to know. Every time we put

on this uniform we are saying that no one is going to hurt us, our families or the freedom by which we live.

We are the best air and space force in the world, and considering the way wars are fought these days, we are undoubtedly the best service in the world.

Each member has a unique reason

for joining the Air Force, staying in or leaving it eventually.

Regardless of the reasons, we all serve to continue to make this Air Force the best the world has ever seen.

Whether that means putting more quality men and women in the Air Force, maintaining the jets that we use to disintegrate our enemies or ensuring that we all have a high

quality of life, we work toward the same vision. So be proud because you serve. As you all know, not just anyone can join our service.

Stand tall, because without you and the hundreds of thousands serving across the globe, none of us would be free. We are the world's protectors. No one comes close.

**"Every time we put on this uniform we are saying that no one is going to hurt us, our families or the freedom by which we live."**

— Senior Airman Dean Witt  
368th Recruiting Squadron  
Public Affairs

## Hit and run

**Comment:** My vehicle was involved in a hit and run accident on base. I called the legal office to ask about procedures for filing a claim. They informed me per Air Force Instruction 51-502, *Personnel and Government Recovery Claims*, this type of accident can't be claimed.

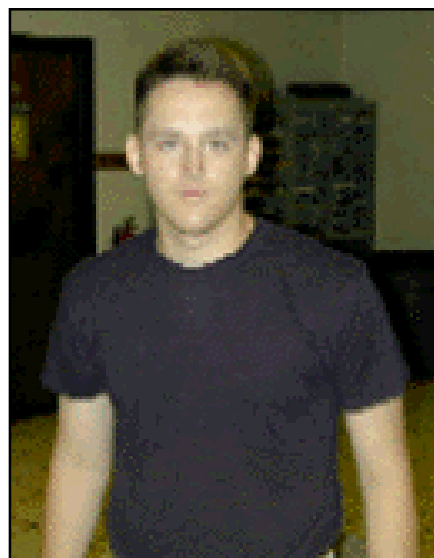
A lot of other vehicle damages done on base can be claimed, so I'm wondering why hit and runs can't be.

**Reply:** I'm sorry this happened on our base.

However, unless there's clear evidence the government was at fault, current policy doesn't permit the Air Force to pay for loss or damage caused by hit and run accidents.

Please contact your private insurance company and file a claim with them.

## Special operations community mourns loss of young member



Airman 1st Class John D. Meade, a member of the 16th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Hurlburt Field, passed away Tuesday after a vehicle accident.

Airman Meade was an electrical and environmental systems apprentice who arrived at Hurlburt Field in September.

He was a native of Oceana, W. Va.

"In the short period he was with us, he contributed greatly to the unit," said Capt. Harry Seibert, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

"He excelled in all aspects of his training and willingly took on any task to keep our AC-130U fleet mission capable. He will be forever missed, and never forgotten."



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### Address information

U.S. MAIL: COMMANDO, 131 Bartley St. Ste. 326, Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5271  
E-MAIL: [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil)  
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464  
FAX: (850) 884-6093

### COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

**Col. David Scott**

Commander

**Capt. Carol Kanode**

Chief, Public Affairs

**Master Sgt. Cathy Landroche**

NCOIC

**Staff Sgt. William Seabrook**

Chief, Internal Information

**2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss**

Editor

**Airman Sam Taylor**

Staff writer

**16th Communications Squadron**

Photography

**Barbara Anna**

Production support

**Article submissions  
for the Commando  
should be sent to**

**[commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil)**

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# News

## Final exercise before ORI completed

by Airman Sam Taylor  
Public Affairs

The 16th Special Operations Wing conducted a major accident response exercise May 4, on Bennet Avenue, near the 16th Supply Squadron and the hazardous material pharmacy, to test its disaster response team before the Operational Readiness Inspection in June.

Using dry ice fog for the "toxic fumes," the exercise scenario depicted a husband, his wife and their baby in a head-on collision with a forklift carrying a load of hydrochloric acid and lithium batteries.

Among the first to respond to the scene were two non-participants from the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, Staff Sgt. Robert Shepherd and Senior Airman Patrick Stage, who heard the cries of the "wounded" and went to investigate.

"We saw what looked to be chemicals on fire, so we ran out to see what we could do to help," said Sergeant Shepherd. "When I saw one of the evaluators just standing there, I asked him for assistance



Photo by Airman Sam Taylor  
Staff Sgt. Nathan Meyer, 16th Security Forces Squadron, directs traffic around the accident scene during the exercise on Bennet Avenue May 4.

and he said, 'I'm not even here.' That's when it dawned on me in the confusion that it was an exercise."

Now an official part of the action, Sergeant Shepherd and Airman Stage were then handed cards, which read "itchy eyes," and "burning throat," to let emergency medical people know what their faux conditions were. The duo then went into action, calling 911 for help, directing traffic and getting a spill kit from their shop to stop the "acid" from draining into the sewer system.

"These guys showed great situational awareness," said Master Sgt. Paul Dillon, superintendent, 16th SOW inspector general's office.

Security forces showed up on scene shortly, directing traffic and securing the area, followed by the fire department, medical group and disaster control group, all working together to control the situation.

"This was our last chance to test our disaster response team before the ORI, and it went well overall," said Col. Jim Cox, 16th Support Group commander and on-scene commander in the exercise. "The fire department, medical, environmental and explosive ordnance disposal came up with a good recommended course of action."

## CAVAIANI

Continued from Page 1

been in Vietnam," he said. "Then all of a sudden I get out and the communication is gone; you're out there alone just like many of the vets that came home at first."

The sergeant major was captured and held prisoner for nearly two years.

He was at Hurlburt Field speaking to students of the Joint Operation Intermediate Course at the USAFSOS.

According to JOIC Director Maj. Paul Wheelless, the two-week course's focus is to prepare majors on special operations arts, prior to attending an intermediate service school.

The focus of Sergeant Major Cavaiani's lecture was on the friction of war acting against generally outnumbered special operators, and moral factors (such as courage, intellect, boldness and perseverance) acting to support the special operations model.

The sergeant major talked about the team effort needed in special operations but also the importance of learning each part of the plan, from the smallest detail to the overall objective.

"When you're part of a team, you have to know what everyone else on the team does because when the first guy takes a bullet, what are you going to do, stand around and say, 'The mission is over'?" said the sergeant major.

"Everyone has something to contribute; it may not be the most important contribution, but if you don't get that widget right, a plane goes down. I never forget where I came from, being an E-1, 2, 3 and 4, and I didn't allow other people to forget or talk down to enlisted," said Sergeant Major Cavaiani.

Learning is also a large part of Sergeant Major Cavaiani's leadership philosophy.

Having worked with Air Force special operators throughout his career, Sergeant Major Cavaiani always wanted to know their mission and piece of the special operations puzzle as well as he knew his own.

Constantly watching people from other services and asking to learn their jobs as well as educating them on his own job, gave him



Photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas

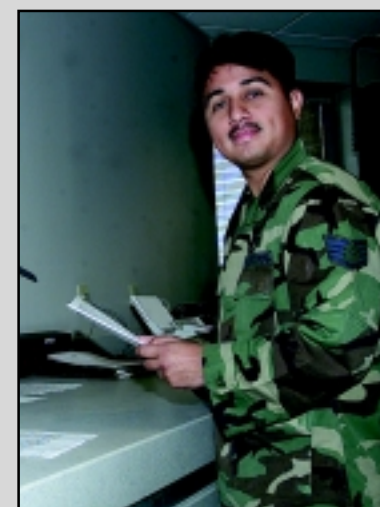
Medal of Honor recipient retired Sgt. Maj. Jon Cavaiani, U.S. Army, greets Airman 1st Class Othniel Barnett, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, during his visit to Hurlburt Field.

the confidence that the little things he learned helped to ensure the big things would go right.

Today, after 21 years in the Army – with more than 4,300 high-altitude, low-opening jumps and 200 static-line jumps – the sergeant major and his wife are studying culinary arts in South Carolina.

Sergeant Major Cavaiani also earned the Legion of Valor, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with valor, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster and the Army Commendation medal with valor.

## Spotlight on ...



Staff Sgt.  
Henry Rodriguez

**Name:** Henry Rodriguez

**Rank/Duty Title:** Staff sergeant/  
NCO in charge of flight management

**Organization:** 4th Special Operations Squadron

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Hobbies:** Soccer, boxing, fishing, barbeques and computers

**Contribution to the mission:** Sergeant Rodriguez directly assists the 4th SOS flight management superintendent in the management of the unit's \$9.2 million annual flying hour program for 13 AC-130U Spooky gunships. He maintains more than 250 personal information folders on assigned and attached flyers in eight different aviation career fields. He also supervises and mentors five operations resource management specialists. The sergeant diligently directs and ensures correct entry and audit of daily aircrew flying and ground training accomplishments into the Air Force Operations Management Resource System. Other responsibilities include the daily inventorying of the squadron's communications security account, issuing daily mission kits to aircrew members and certifying monthly incentive pay entitlements for more than 250 crewmembers.

*(Editor's note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job. All supervisors are encouraged to use this recognition program. Call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information.)*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Raymond Nelson

Lt. Gen. Maxwell Bailey, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, flies an MC-130H from the 15th Special Operations Squadron for the first time after more than 15 months off of flight status.

## BAILEY

*Continued from Page 1*

doctor throughout his recovery; Lt. Col. Bob Saad, the cardiology consultant to the Air Force surgeon general; Dr. Bill Kruyer, chief cardiologist for Brooks Air Force Base, Texas; and Maj. Alex Roitstein and Kent Stevens and their surgical team, whom the general credits with saving his life.

"Many of us in the crew business worry about something medical popping up that will take us off of flight status," said General Bailey, "but I think my situation shows people that they're going to get you back onto flight status if at all possible."

As the general deplaned the MC-130H he had just parked for the first time in a long time, he had a smile on his face and a big hurdle behind him.

## Honor in battle – the Sgt. Maj. Cavaiani story

by Dr. John Dabrowski  
History Office

As the morning fog began to lift, June 5, 1971, North Vietnamese Army units began their assault on a U.S. radio relay site just a few miles north of Khe Sanh, Vietnam.

There were 27 U.S. and 67 Montagnard soldiers holding the American site, known as Old Hickory.

The site was commanded by then-Army Staff Sgt. Jon Cavaiani, who led the security platoon.

Sergeant Cavaiani was a member of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group. The group was made up of volunteers from Army Special Forces, Air Force Air Commandos and Navy SEALs.

The group took on the most dangerous assignments, going behind enemy lines to penetrate North Vietnamese military facilities in Laos and Cambodia and along the heavily defended Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Sergeant Cavaiani and his men



Staff Sgt. Jon Cavaiani

would withstand repeated attacks on the outpost by larger NVA army units. From the Ashau Valley north to the demilitarized zone, a distance of about 75 miles, the enemy controlled nearly the entire area by June 1971. Only Outpost Hickory stood in their way of complete domination.

After repeated assaults on the outpost, that began June 4, and with mounting U.S. and Montagnard casualties, an evacuation of the outpost was

ordered. Several UH-1 "Huey" helicopters flew to evacuate the wounded and the rest of the defenders.

At 4:30 p.m., Sergeant Cavaiani was told the last helicopter was arriving and he was ordered to get on it.

The Huey had room for only seven passengers; Sergeant Cavaiani still had more than 20 men who needed to evacuate. With this last helicopter, he managed to evacuate 69 men; this left only 19 Montagnards, four Vietnamese and two Americans at the outpost.

When all seemed lost, a Thailand-based U.S. Air Force H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopter was en route to the outpost to evacuate the sergeant and his men.

But when the helicopter was seven miles away, the pilot radioed in to the outpost, telling them he would be court-martialed if he didn't turn "...this bird around and return to Thailand."

With no help coming in the foreseeable future, the men of Outpost Hickory were left to fend for themselves. They did what

See **HERO**, Page 9

## Special ops school expands courses for diverse missions

by 2nd Lt.  
Gabe Johnson  
AFSOC Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School is expanding its selection of courses for academic year 2001.

The school now offers 25 courses designed to prepare the special operations warrior to handle uncertainty.

Among the new courses is the SOF Senior Enlisted Course, specifically targeted at senior enlisted special operators going to joint assignments.

The school also held its first Joint Special Operations Pre-Command Course.

This course was transferred from U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and is aimed at all SOF officers and E-9s assuming command at the squadron/battalion level or higher.

Additionally, this year marks the first full year that USAFSOS offered the Joint Special Operations Task Force Course.

According to school officials, the human element is the key to successful special operations.

Many USAFSOS courses meet the demand for cultural education so special operations professionals from all services are better prepared for the cultural differences

of international allies and adversaries. In addition to cultural education, students gain a mastery of command and control and leveraging war-fighting capabilities.

Experienced instructors present the course material in the new courses as well as in the established courses.

"The educational forum and academic freedom policy presented at the school attracts many knowledgeable and inspiring guest speakers," said Col. James Oeser, USAFSOS commander.

Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Jon Cavaiani, a Medal of Honor recipient, spoke to a Joint Special Operations Intermediate Seminar last week about the importance of education and teamwork in special operations.

"Our dynamic staff, guest speakers and array of Joint Special Operations University courses are prepared to support airmen, soldiers and sailors in the field and to provide them with the tools necessary to accomplish their mission," said the commander.

For more information about USAFSOS courses, call 884-1877.

You can also visit the school's Web site at [www.hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos](http://www.hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos).

## Look who's talking: What do you think about tourists paying for travel into space?



*"It's a cover up to give the former Soviet Union money for their nuclear program."*

**Airman  
Jacqueline Jackson,**  
4th Special Operations  
Squadron



*"As long as the money is put into the space program and the person can physically handle it, it's okay."*

**Master Sgt.  
Ron Lasky,**  
16th Helicopter Genera-  
tion Squadron



*"I believe it's really neat that any private citizen can afford to travel into space. It can be a once in a lifetime experience."*

**Paul Martin,**  
16th Supply Squadron

# Active support for Air Force drug-testing program vital to success

by **Jim Sanders**  
*Drug Demand Reduction  
Program Office*

When a person joins the Air

Force, urinalysis drug testing becomes a condition of employment.

Random drug testing is vital to the Air Force's drug deterrence

effort – it helps maintain a drug-free Air Force community that is fit and combat ready.

Illegal drug use is a breach of discipline and threatens an

offender's career, health and future.

A letter written by the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Lester Lyles, emphasized his concern and support for the Air Force drug abuse testing program.

He wrote, "A robust, fair and efficient drug abuse urinalysis testing program is a vital deterrent to illegal drug use. It's a commander's program designed to enhance unit readiness, morale, good order and discipline. It's been remarkably effective in keeping drug offenses and drug usage at very low levels. I solicit your strong, continuing support for this program. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the program it must be fairly administered."

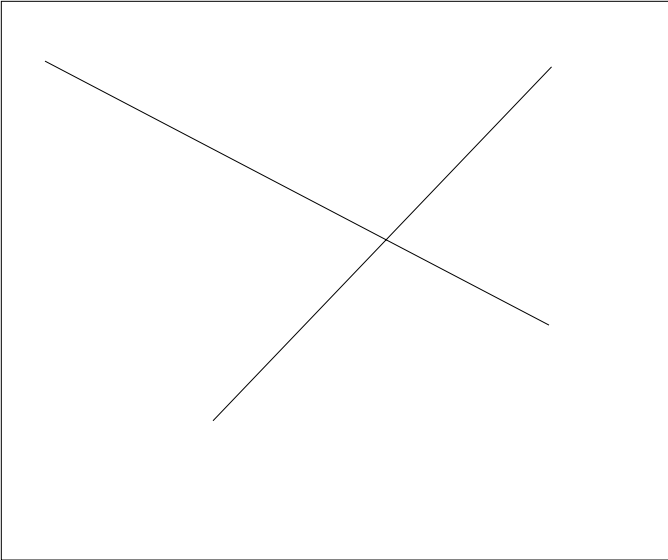
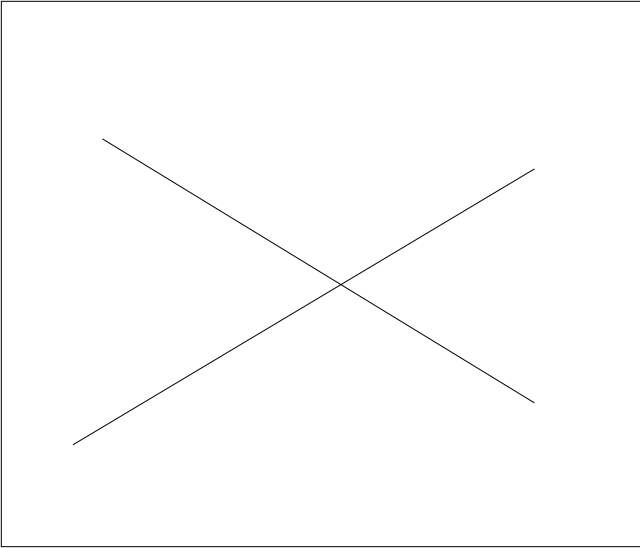
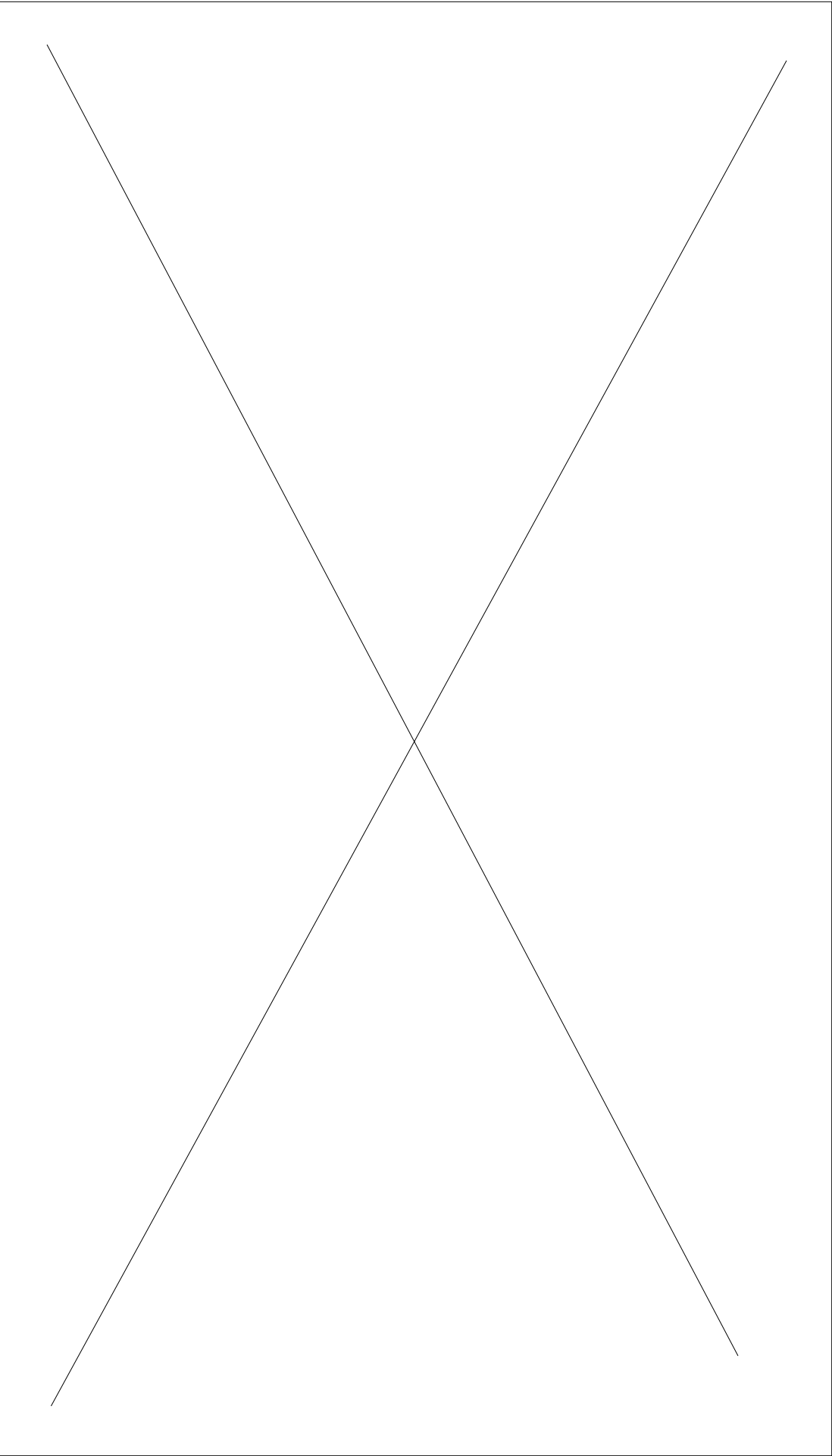
General Lyles also told commanders to select the highest quality people to run and administer the drug-testing program.

"Expect and demand that unit personnel selected to submit to testing respond promptly to the order and provide the sample without fail," the general said. "In those rare instances where a

member fails to obey the order, be prepared to take appropriate corrective action, considering the full range of judicial, non-judicial punishment and administrative options available.

"Ignoring the failure of a member to report for an ordered drug test seriously undermines the perceived fairness and legitimacy of the program. Similarly, when a trusted agent or observer fails to properly fulfill their duty in administering the program, commanders and supervisors should not hesitate to take appropriate corrective action.

"Trusted agents and observers play critical roles in the operation of the drug-testing program and we must be able to rely upon them to perform in accordance with Air Force requirements. Active commander support and involvement is essential to maintaining program effectiveness. Your support for, and effective use of, this important program will deter and prevent drug abuse and thereby enhance and ensure our position as the world's premier aerospace force."



# Drinking problems not created overnight

by Tech. Sgt.  
John Patterson  
16th Medical Operations  
Squadron

When does drinking become a problem? Some people believe it's a problem when a person drinks every day. Though that's a sign, the real problem starts long before a person progresses to daily drinking.

Some people believe there's a specific number of drinks or frequency of drinking that makes a person an alcoholic.

The fact is there are no magic numbers. Drinking becomes a problem when it starts altering someone's life.

Problematic drinking affects the drinker and other people in the drinker's life. Often, problem drinkers consume more than they expect to or for longer periods of time than they intended.

They experience negative consequences at home, work or school as a result of their

drinking. Problem drinkers drive while intoxicated or become verbally and/or physically abusive while drinking. They neglect their responsibilities as a result of drinking.

They experience health problems related to drinking. Problem drinkers hurt themselves and can hurt other people.

Usually someone has warned them about the problem. It's common for alcoholics to ignore the impact it has on their lives and the lives of those around them.

The nature of alcoholism is that it creeps up on people slowly, before they can recognize it. When they finally do begin to see signs, they often make attempts to prove to themselves or others that they don't have a problem. Sometimes they quit drinking for a few weeks or months to show that they don't need it or that they can go without it.

However, once they prove they can go without drinking, they usually return to alcohol and the problematic behaviors that caused them to question their drinking in the first place.

Once a person realizes he or she has a problem with alcohol, the next step is getting help.

The Air Force's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program is designed to help active duty military members receive treatment for substance abuse problems without negative consequences to their careers. The local community also has effective treatment centers.

Alcohol problems tend to become more severe over time. The best time to obtain assistance is now.

Drinking responsibly and in moderation requires control. Programs are available to help problem drinkers gain that control.

The ADAPT program offers educational services designed to prevent the development of an alcohol problem and treatment services for problem drinkers.

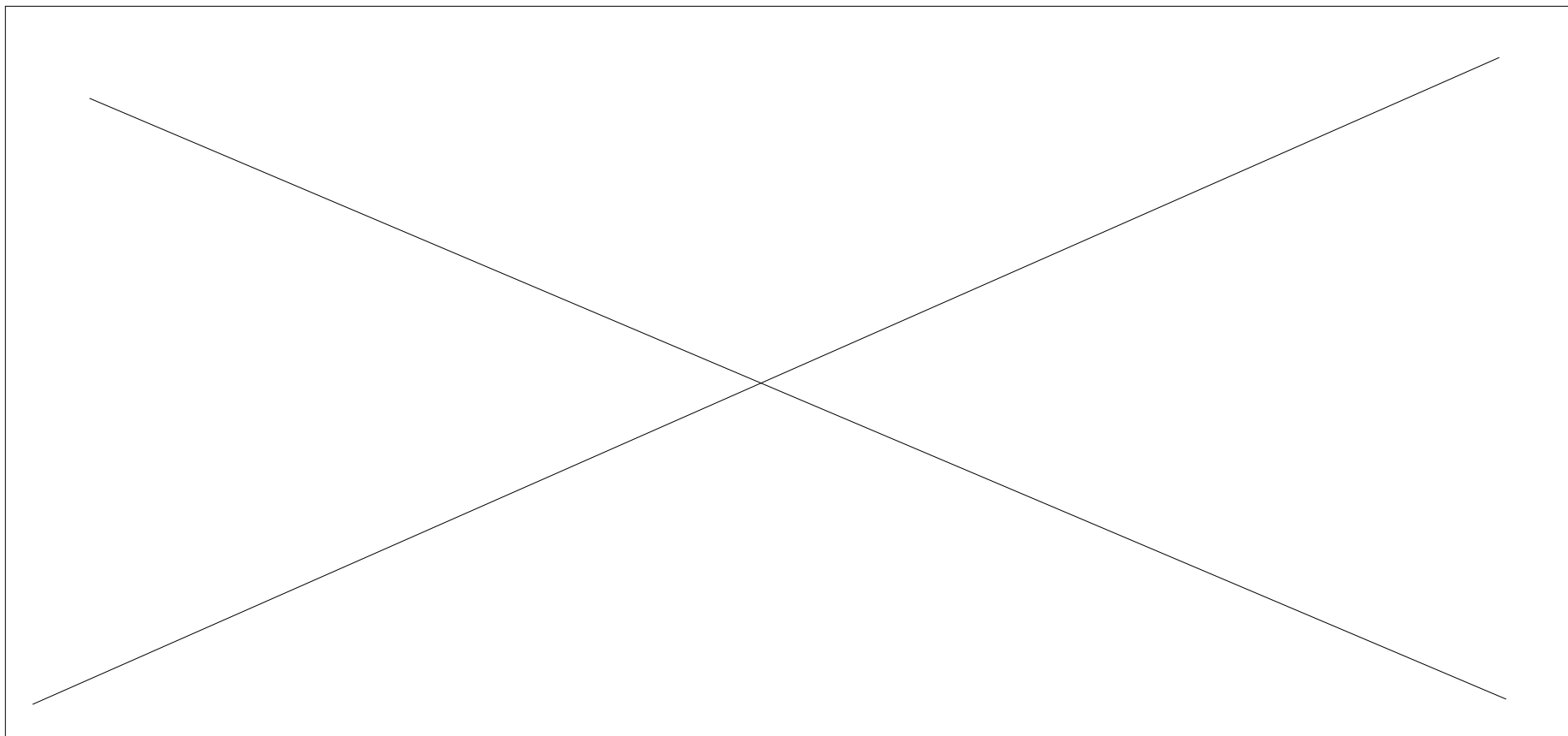
Call the ADAPT office at 884-2632, or 884-7472 for more information.

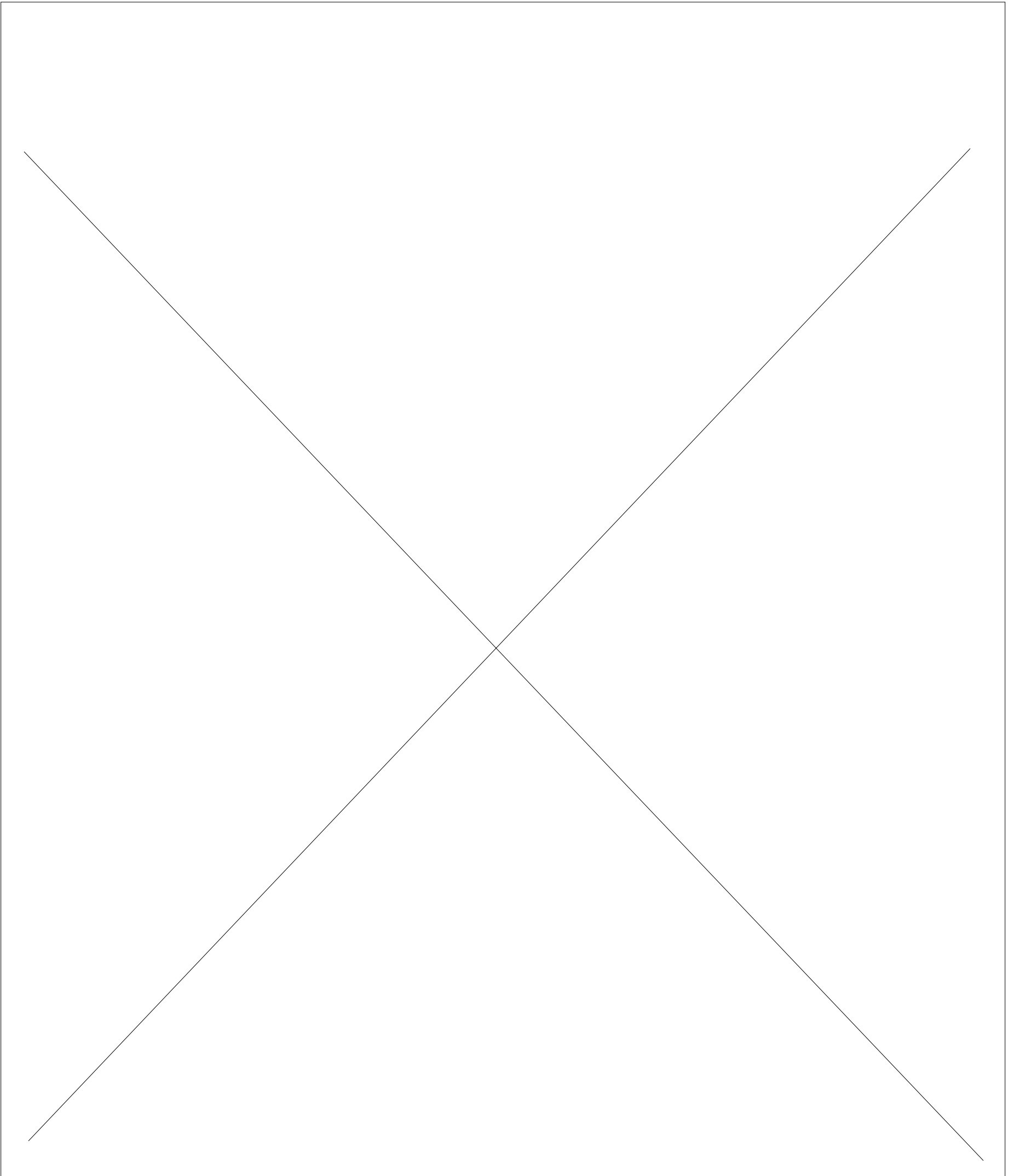


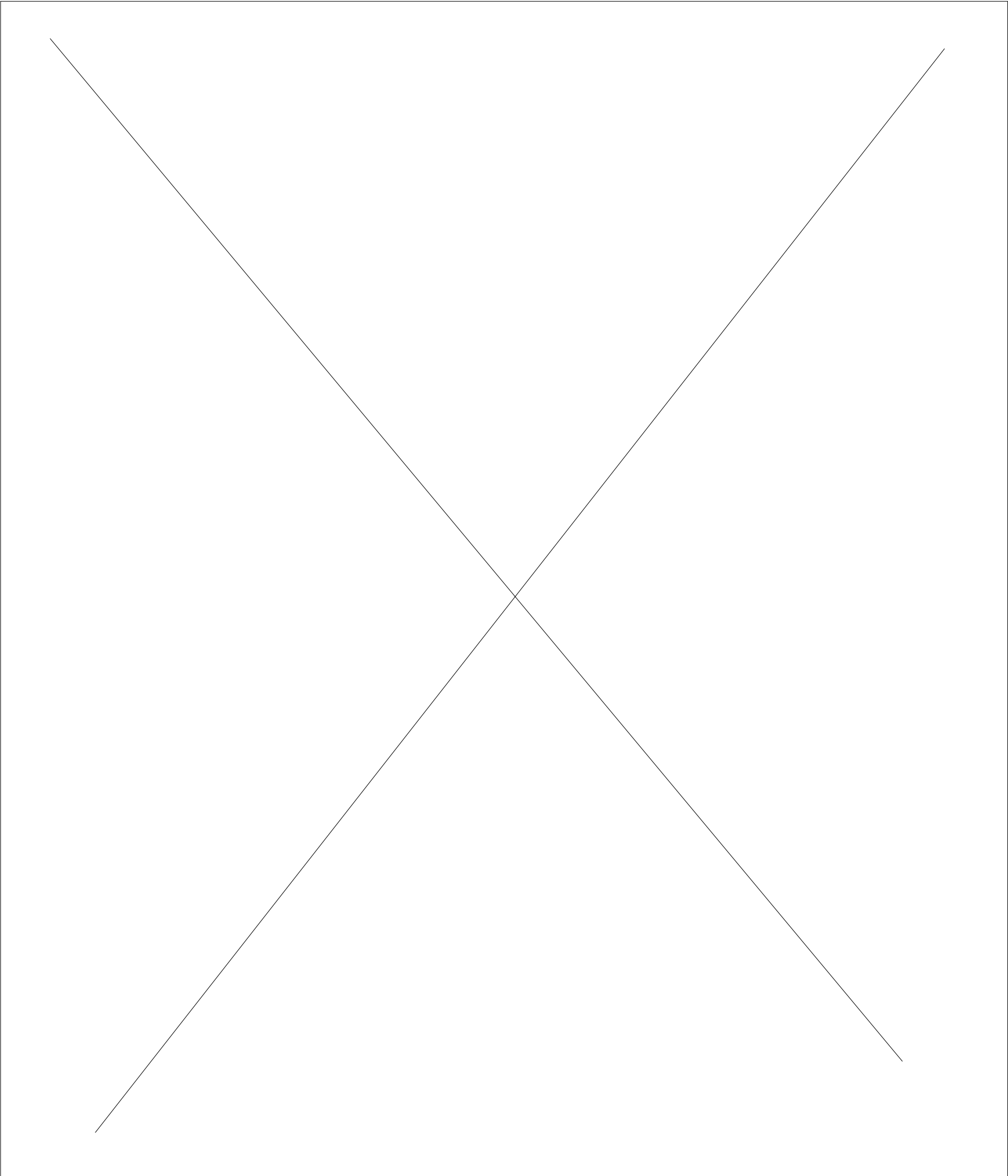
Photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas

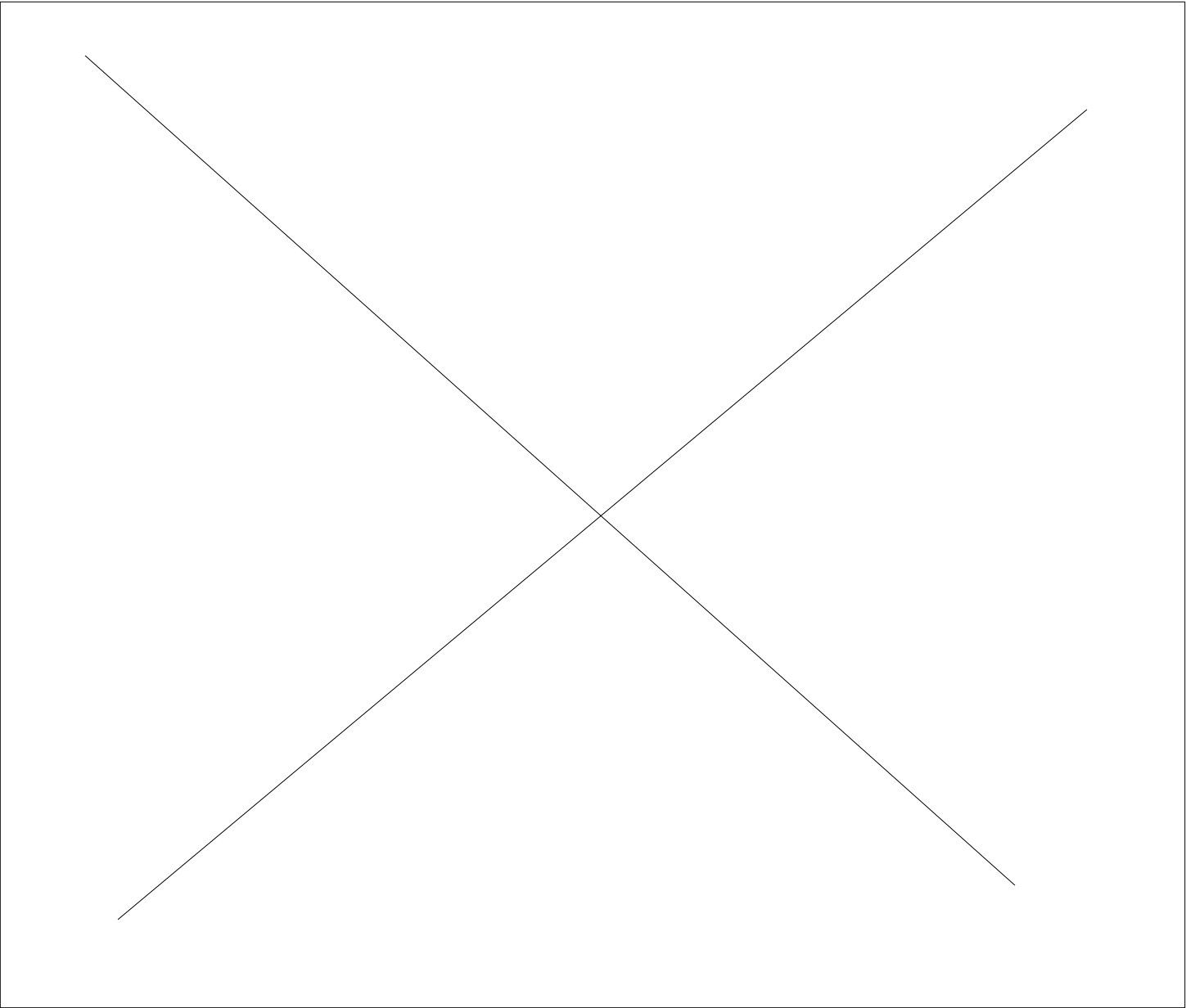
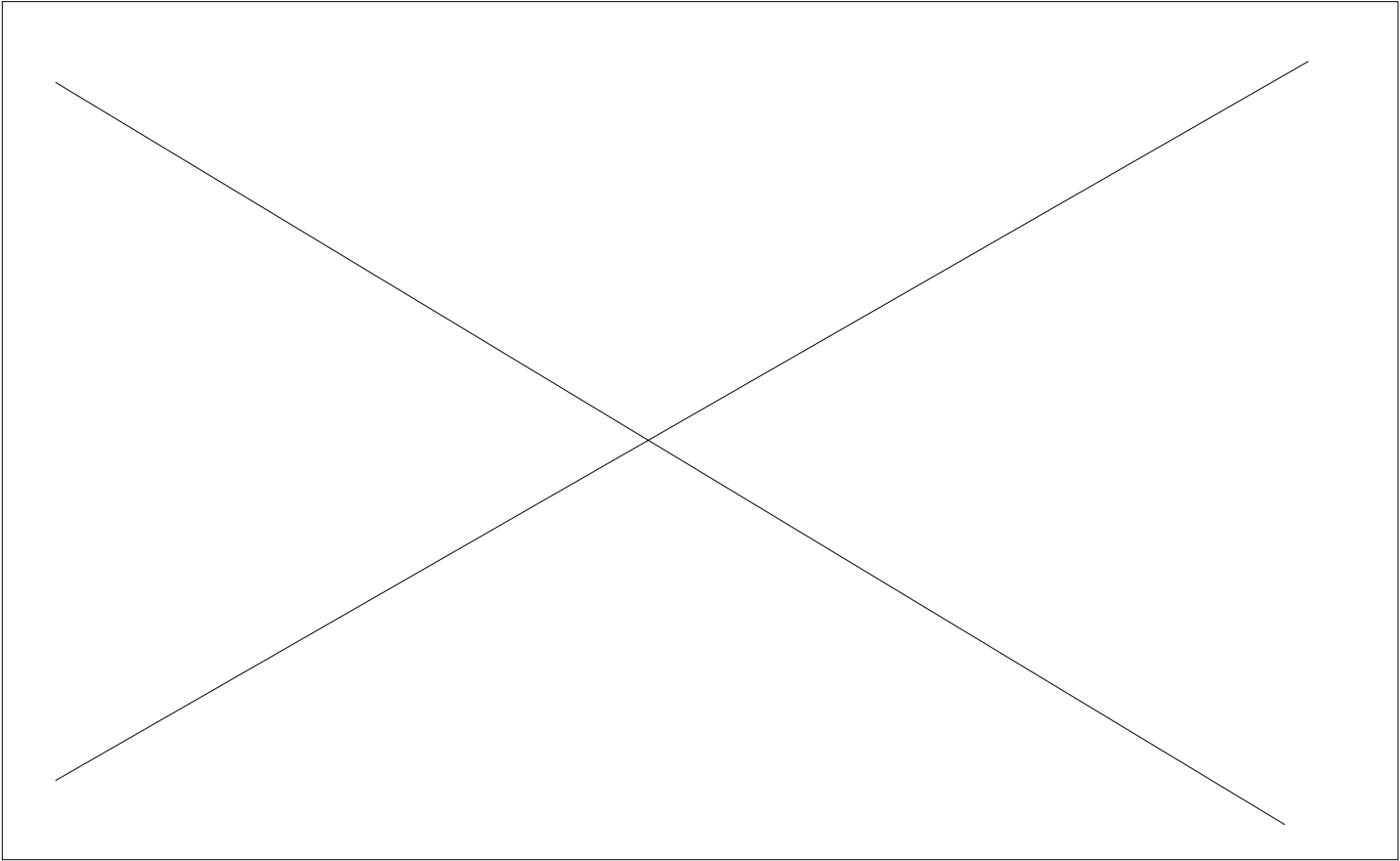
## Landing gear down

A member of the 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron helps keep the A1-E Skyraider straight as it's lifted from a pedestal in the Air Park where it has rested since 1972. The move required coordination between the 16th EMS maintenance and fabrication flights, the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron and Eglin Air Force Base's 96th Flight Test Squadron. The historic plane will be lifted once more before resting finally on new landing gear pads.









**HERO**  
*Continued from Page 4*

they could to strengthen their defenses, and later that evening they experienced the first probes by the NVA.

In the early morning of June 5, the enemy attacked in force, overwhelming the defenders who had sustained heavy casualties.

Although an AC-119 Gunship circled above, the pilot didn't fire, fearing friendly casualties.

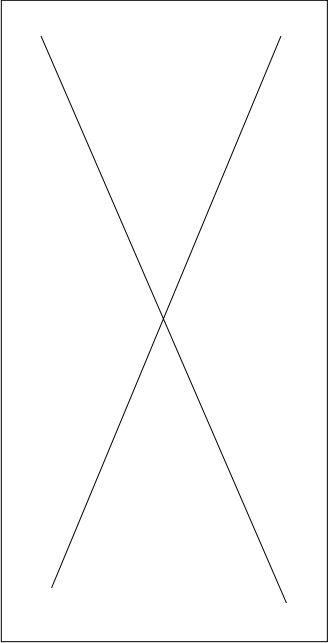
As the enemy force made its way from bunker to bunker, Sergeant Cavaiani was determined to resist to the end.

He was ultimately knocked unconscious by a grenade blast and left for dead.

When he awoke, he began a treacherous 10-day trek toward friendly lines, a mission that almost succeeded, until he was captured by the enemy and made a prisoner of war. During his capture, Sergeant Cavaiani was beaten as the enemy tried to make him talk about the secret outpost he so tenaciously defended.

He maintained to his captors that he was only an NCO and not privy to whatever secrets went on at the outpost. He was taken to Laos where he was held as a POW.

In March 1973, he was released with other U.S. POWs. For his defense of Outpost Hickory, Sergeant Cavaiani was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1974.



# FEATURE

## Gunner career field offers unique experience

by Airman Sam Taylor  
Public Affairs

Like many Air Force jobs, the gunner career field is undermanned.

But if you listen to one gunner talk about his profession, you

hear that the manning shortfalls aren't because the job is dull.

"Being a gunner is very exciting," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Harper, an AC-130U gunner with the 4th Special Operations Squadron. "I love to fly, and to have the ability to work with com-

plex weapon systems. Every day presents its own unique challenges."

Simultaneously loading a 105mm Howitzer and a 40mm cannon while 3,000 feet in the air with your teammates *can* be considered a challenge.

"It can be very tough and stressing," Sergeant Harper said of the mid-air artillery unleashed by the gunners. "You just rely on your training and your fellow crewmembers. It definitely takes team effort to make everything work together."

The gunners (four on a U-model gunship and five on an H-model) work with many crewmembers — most directly with the sensor operators and the loadmaster — communicating via an intra-aircraft communications cable network. Gunners also employ their trade on MH-53J/M Pave Lows, shooting either miniguns or .50-caliber machine guns to protect and provide cover to the helicopter during rescue operations.

Previously a weapons troop, Sergeant Harper had heard about



Photos by Airman Sam Taylor

Staff Sgt. Scott "Zippy" Rodatz (right), a 4th Special Operations Squadron AC-130U gunship gunner, hands a clip of 40mm rounds to Staff Sgt. James Dedge, also 4th SOS.



Staff Sgt. Morris Jefferson, an MH-53 Pave Low flight engineer with the 20th SOS, finishes his preflight inspection of the 7.62-caliber minigun.



Tech. Sgt. Tony Taylor, an aerial gunner with the 4th Special Operations Squadron, hands spent 105mm Howitzer ammunition down to be put in it's rack.

the gunner career field, which was a special duty assignment at the time. After reading an article in *Airman* magazine about recruiting sensor operators for the U-models, he was told gunners were also needed for these aircraft.

"I sent a package down and went through the Commando Look program" said the sergeant, "and here I am today, loving every minute of it!"

The Commando Look program has since been replaced by a new Air Force Special Operations Command Career Enlisted Aviator Recruiting and Retention program.

"The gunship is all about gunners," said Lt. Col. Hart Franklin, 4th SOS commander. "Gunnery are definitely at the tip of this particular spear."

Sergeant Harper encourages those interested to give gunning

a go. "Anyone can do this if they have the drive, the ambition and the willingness to work hard," he said. "This job is challenging and rewarding, and it makes me feel like I'm doing something more for my country."

To be eligible for this special duty assignment, people need to be able to pass a class III physical. Gunners have carrier enlisted aviator status, and receive flight incentive pay.

There are approximately 300 gunners in

the Air Force, the majority serving in AFSOC, and while women can't apply to become gunners on Pave Lows, they can on gunships.

For information about becoming a gunner, call Senior Master Sgt. Tim Beish at 884-4871.



# LIFESTYLE

## Military

### AFROTC commanders

The Air Force Colonel Matters Office announces the projected vacancies and application procedures for summer 2002 Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment commander/professor of aerospace studies positions. Applicants must submit a signed memo requesting availability to apply by Tuesday, and completed packages must be sent to Air Education and Training Command headquarters by July 15. For more information, go to the Web site at [www.colonels.hq.af.mil](http://www.colonels.hq.af.mil), or visit the customer service section of the military personnel flight.

### Olmstead Scholar Program

The Olmstead Scholar Program provides an opportunity for at least three Air Force Academy, Officer Training School or Reserve Officer Training Corps graduates to study in a foreign language university abroad. Applications must be sent to the Air Force Personnel Center by Oct. 1. For more information about the program and eligibility criteria, visit military personnel flight's customer service section.

### GI Bill conversion

Briefings on converting from the Veteran's Education Assistance Program to the Montgomery GI Bill are held the first and third Thursday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. at the education center. Some active duty members are eligible to contribute an additional \$600 to maximize Montgomery GI Bill benefits. For more information, visit the Veterans Administration Web site at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), or contact the base education center at 884-6724.

### AFSA meeting

The Hurlburt Field chapter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association holds its next meeting May 23 at 3 p.m. in J.R. Rockers' back room. The date has been changed because of a division convention in Cocoa Beach, Fla. All ranks are welcome to attend – active duty enlisted and officers, retirees and family members. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844, or visit the Web site at [www.afsa567.org](http://www.afsa567.org).

### Recruiter team visit

People can learn more about the challenges and rewards of recruiting duty when the Recruiter Screening Team visits Hurlburt Field May 31 at 1 p.m., with a one-hour briefing in the RED HORSE compound theater, building 91105. Senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active federal military service are eligible to apply. Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

### MilMod update

The military personnel flight and commander support staffs won't be able to generate personnel products, such as record review listings, from May 24 through June 4. The Air Force Personnel Center and MPFs Air Force-wide are converting to a modernized personnel data system, called MilMod, short for Military Modernization System. For more information, contact commander support staffs.

### MPF closure

The military personnel flight closes at noon today for a flight function. Emergency services are available. Call 884-5252 for more information.

### Clinic closure

Patient care services for the Hurlburt Field Clinic and Pharmacy are limited to 7 to 11 a.m. Wednesday. These areas are closed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for medical readiness training. Regular hours resume Thursday.

### CCAF graduation

The Hurlburt Field Education Center closes May 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the spring Community College of the Air Force graduation. Everyone is invited to come out and congratulate the graduates May 24 at 8:30 a.m. at The Soundside.

## Community

### Trespass notice

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Section, reminds people not to trespass on the firing ranges and impact areas located off Red Horse Road. Trespassing is dangerous because of gunfire and potential gunfire hazards – noise hazards, live fire and being in the impact area when firing isn't being conducted. People on the firing range must have clearance to enter the range and impact area. For more information, call 884-7520 or 884-7205.

### Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Field Chapel presents Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. People can enjoy a free meal while having minor repairs done on one article of clean clothing, or having stripes, patches or name tags sewn on. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371, or Jimmie Thomas at 881-3344.

### EESC meeting

The Eglin Enlisted Spouses Club meets Tuesday at 6 p.m., with the location to be determined. For more information, call Shelley Weeks at 897-4901.

### Art activities

The Arts and Design Society of Fort Walton Beach holds summer classes for children, beginning June 11. Each class runs for six weeks. Advanced registration and payment is required. The society is located at 17 First St. SE, Fort Walton Beach. For more information, call 864-2228.

**Drawing Classes** – Basic drawing techniques, Mondays and Thursdays, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**Pottery Classes** – Handbuilding and wheel work, Wednesdays, from 4 to 6 p.m.

**Photography and Digital Arts Contest** – ADSO sponsors its second annual exhibition of photography and digital arts June 26 to July 29. Cash awards are given for first through third place in each category. Artists may enter up to three pieces of artwork. For more information on entry specifications and deadlines, call 244-1271.

### Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)



#### Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September – May

#### Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise & worship),

1:15 a.m. (traditional),

2:30 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August – May

Youth and Singles groups available

**Jewish Services (882-2111)**

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

**Muslim Services (882-2111)**

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

## At the movies



**Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.**

### Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

**Friday** – (R) "Exit Wounds," starring Steven Seagal and DMX – Fifty kilos of heroin disappear from the property vaults of the toughest precinct in Detroit and no one knows how. It'll make someone \$5 million richer – maybe someone in uniform – as long as no one talks. To Latrell, the man with the money at the other end of the deal, it provokes the question: are all cops bad? But when he crosses paths with Orin, he discovers nothing is what it seems, not even the law.

**Saturday** – (PG-13) "Chocolat," starring Juliette Binoche and Lena Olin – In the traditional French village of Lansquenot, life hasn't changed for the last 100 years. Vianne and her daughter, Anouk, open a chocolaterie filled with irresistible confections that awaken the townspeople's hidden appetites. But, her magical ability to perceive the villagers' private desires, and satisfy them with just the right confection, slowly persuades a few to abandon themselves to her temptations.

**Sunday** – (PG-13) "Just Visiting," starring Jean Reno and Christina Applegate – Count Thibault and his servant, Andre, are accidentally transported from the twelfth century to modern-day Chicago as the result of a wizard's flawed potion. Confused, lost and overwhelmed, they unexpectedly meet Thibault's descendant, Julia, and soon become involved in her life. Before long, Andre and Thibault realize they must quickly find a way back to their own time, or else ...

### Eglin (882-1066)

**Friday** – (R) "The Brothers," starring Morris Chestnut and D.L. Hughley – Jackson, Brian, Derrick and Terry are lifelong friends banded together to weather love's innate terrors and occasional triumphs. Amidst the career track, basketball and bar hopping, they love women, as many as possible, but shocking revelations test the foursome's friendship and change their dating habits forever.

**Saturday** – (PG-13) "Heartbreakers," starring Sigourney Weaver and Jennifer Love Hewitt – Max and Page are a mother-daughter duo who are in the middle of a con, when Page does the unthinkable – she falls in love. Things like morals and a conscience start to surface, which force mother and daughter to square off and examine their crazy relationship to keep their own hearts in one piece.

**Sunday** – (R) "Tomcats," starring Jerry O'Connell and Shannon Elizabeth – The Tomcats are a group of freewheeling, sex-fueled single buddies who go up against each other in a betting pool that will leave the "last man standing" unmarried with the jackpot. Fast-forward seven years to today, when they're all married and starting families with the exception of two confirmed bachelors.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled play dates.)

# LIFESTYLE

## Community

### Claim against airman

Airman 1st Class John D. Meade, a member of the 16th Aircraft Generation Squadron, passed away Tuesday as a result of a single vehicle accident. Anyone with a claim for or against Airman Meade should contact Capt. Harry Seibert, 16th AGS at 884-8468.

### Summer program

Registration is now being accepted for the youth center's summer program, which begins May 24. Children 6 to 12 are eligible. The program offers field trips, clubs and various activities. For more information, call Jim Dugan at 884-6355.

### Cardboat boat races

Start preparing now for the Sound of Independence Cardboard Boat Regatta, June 29. Last year the 16th Equipment Squadron took first place. Can your organization beat them this year? For more information and entry requirements, call the Beachside Outdoor Recreation Center at 884-6939.

### Teen orientation

A one-hour teen volunteer orientation is scheduled for May 18 at 4 p.m. in the 16th Special Operations Wing testing room, building 90210. Teens and their supervisors will be briefed on program guidelines and set work schedules. A parent should ac-

company teen volunteers. For more information on the program, call Edilia Menges at 884-6107 or Susie Schaffer at 884-6246.

### Club Beyond

Students in grades six through 12 can enjoy fun and fellowship at Club Beyond, Hurlburt Field's Protestant youth group. The club is sponsored by the chapel and has many activities planned for the summer. For more information, contact Doug Bowman, youth minister, at 884-5487.

### Library activities

**Once Upon a Thursday** – The base library's weekly story hour is every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the base theater. This Thursday, participants will visit the health and wellness center for exercise fun and nutrition demonstrations.

**Summer Reading Program** – The library begins its summer reading program June 6. Reading logs will be available beginning May 29. Children can keep track of their summer reading and participate in special programs at the base theater every Wednesday at 1 p.m. through July 18. An end of season awards carnival wraps up the fun.

### ITT specials

Information Tickets and Travel has tickets available for the following events. For more information, stop by ITT in the mini mall, or call 884-7848.

**Four-day park hopper pass** – Disney World offers a four-day park hopper pass special for all Florida residents. The pass is \$103 per person and is good through Sept. 30. Blackout date is July 4.

**Universal Studios Orlando** –

Military Recognition Days through May 20. Two-day passes for military members and their families are available for only \$75 per person.

**Mets vs. Braves** – June 30 to July 1. The tour includes round-trip transportation, one night's hotel accommodation, deluxe continental breakfast and club-level seating game tickets for both days. The cost is \$190 for single; \$150 for doubles; \$140 for triples and \$135 for quads. Payment due by June 15.

## Classes

### FSC

For more information on family support center classes, call 884-5441.

**Career Focus Orientation** – Monday, at 9 a.m.

**Sponsorship Training** – Monday, at 1 p.m.

**Mapping Your Career** – Monday, at 1 p.m.

**Moms, Pops and Tots** – Tuesday, at 10 a.m. for ages birth to 2 and Wednesday, at 10 a.m. for ages 2 to 4.

**Transition Assistance Program** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Call 884-6281.

**Deployment Readiness** – Thursday, at 9 a.m.

**Enhancing Relationships** – Thursday, and May 24 and 31, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**Give Parents a Break** – Friday, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. An Air Force Aid-sponsored program providing free childcare for spouses of deployed members, and a break for single parents, or those under undue stress. Call unit first sergeants, the chaplain, or FSC for more information.

# SPORTS

## Hurlburt martial artists compete in tournament

by **Tina Harton**  
Contributing writer

Hurlburt Field Tae Kwon Do students put their skills to the test Saturday at the U.S. South-

eastern Military Tae Kwon Do Tournament, held at the youth center gymnasium.

The students dominated the competition, and after months of planning and hard work from the all volunteer Tae Kwon Do parent staff,

the event could not have gone any better, said Stan Harton, instructor and director of the tournament.

The challenge began at 10 a.m. with the forms competition, after which the action picked up at 12:30 p.m. with the sparring competition. Master Ahmad Almanasrah, a fifth degree black belt, and Michael Mitchell, a third degree black belt, got the sparring competition heated up with an awesome display of kicks and punches. Almanasrah won the first event after several devastating head kicks, giving Mitchell two standing eight counts.

The second event headlined Master Keith Young, a fourth degree black belt and member of the Air Force Tae Kwon Do Team, and Jose Hernandez, also a black belt. With cat-like speed and agility, the two martial artists put on an exhibition that brought the crowd to their feet. Youth from Mr. Harton's Tae Kwon Do class

took the floor next showing the crowd what the sport is all about, taking first place in nearly every sparring match and in at least half of the forms competition.

"I'm very proud of my students," said Harton. "They prepared for months, doing the same forms over and over—and it paid off in the tournament. Each student brought home at least two trophies."

This was the second tournament

Harton's Tae Kwon Do, located at the youth center, has hosted and it should become an annual event martial arts students can look forward to each year, said Harton.

"We were quite pleased to see the turn out," said Harton. "The parents were outstanding and volunteered to support every aspect of the event. We couldn't have done it without them."

Parents pitched in and helped set up the gym Friday night only to show up at 7 a.m. the next morning to kick off the tournament. Master Keith Young, Tae Kwon Do instructor at Eglin Air Force base, with his outstanding support and guidance, was also instrumental in bringing the tournament to life, said Harton.

People interested in Olympic style Tae Kwon Do can contact Mr. Harton at 936-8756. Classes are held at the youth center Monday and Wednesday at 5 and 6 p.m.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Diane Thomas

Lisa Blackburn, 9, competes in the forms competition during the U.S. Southeastern Military Tae Kwon Do Tournament Saturday.

### Tae Kwon Do Results

#### Hurlburt Field Youth Center Students:

Jeff Seroka - Red Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Michael Gilreath - Blue Belt - 2nd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
William Seabrook - Blue Belt - 2nd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Tommy Burman - Purple Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Sarah Slauson - Purple Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Nicholas Noriz - Green Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Krystle LaPrade - Green Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Kyle Risse - Green Belt - 3rd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
James Cable - Orange Belt - 2nd in Forms and 2nd in Sparring  
Random Hodgson - Orange Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Brandon Lackey - Orange Belt - 2nd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Jimmy Teeter - Orange Belt - 2nd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Brandon Sears - Orange Belt - 2nd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Ezechiele Custodio - Orange Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Dometri Wright - Yellow Belt - 1st in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Max Yamane - Yellow Belt - 3rd in Forms and 1st in Sparring  
Christopher Morgan - Yellow Belt - 2nd in Forms and 2nd in Sparring

## Sports Shorts

### Yoga classes

Yoga classes are offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Commando Fitness Center. This is a low-impact intense exercise to enhance balance, flexibility and muscular strength. The cost is \$15 per month. For more information, call 884-6884.

### National Police Week Events

The following activities are scheduled in support of National Police Week:

**Softball Tournament** - Saturday at the softball fields on RED HORSE Road. The cost is \$100 per team, 10-man teams, round robin and double elimination. For more information, call Ed Webb at 884-6208, or Brian Teets at 884-4933.

**Basketball Tournament** - Monday at the Hurlburt

Field Fitness Center. Each team is allowed 10 players (either a military or police agency ID). Time limit for each game is 40 minutes. For more information, call Detrick Glover at 884-5180, or Jason Carr at 884-5134.

**Golf Tournament** - Wednesday at Gator Lakes Golf Course. Show time is 1 p.m. with a 1:30 shotgun start, Florida Scramble, Best Ball. Cost is \$35 per person, which covers green and entry fees and cart. For more information, call Anthony Correia at 884-6102, or Kimberly Forbes at 884-5129.

### May Fitness Month

People can receive stamps on their May Fitness stamp card by participating in Hurlburt Field fitness activities. Each completed card can be redeemed at the fitness centers for a prize while supplies last. All completed cards are eligible for a grand prize drawing and a chance to win a \$150 MasterCard gift card. The overall Air Force grand-

prize winner receives a trip for four to the Brickyard 400 in Indianapolis. Call the fitness center at 884-4412 for more details.

### Okaloosa Knights

The Okaloosa Knights football team is looking for coaches, Emergency Medical Technician staff and cheerleaders for the upcoming season, which begins in June. Applicants must be 18 years or old. For more information, contact Mike Mantini at 678-5483, or Luis Lopez at 651-0663.

### High school football

Officials are needed for the fall high school football season. For more information, call Don Dineen, Miracle Strip Officials Association, at 244-5143, or e-mail dcdineen@home.com.



















**20 COMMANDO** Aug. 18, 2000

May 11, 2001 **COMMANDO 23**Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 17**

**18 COMMANDO** Aug. 18, 2000

Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 21**

## 26 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 25**

## 22 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 19**

**24COMMANDO** Aug. 18, 2000

Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 27**

## 28 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

## 16 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

## 30 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

## 32 COMMANDO Aug. 18, 2000

Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 29**Aug. 18, 2000 **COMMANDO 31**

